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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2409

INFO RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE 0884

RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 1212

UNCLAS DAKAR 000624

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/W, AF/RSA
PARIS FOR DEA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PREL PU XY

SUBJECT: GUINEA-BISSAU SUPREME COURT NARROWS LIST OF
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

On May 13, the Supreme Court of Guinea-Bissau issued its ruling on the eligibility of the twenty official candidates contesting the June 28 presidential election. In a surprise decision, the Court allowed the candidacy of businessman and former President Henrique Rosa. (Note: Observers had speculated that the 63-year-old Rosa, of mixed Portuguese and African heritage, would not meet the legal requirement that at least one of his grandparents must have been born in Guinea-Bissau and must have been of Bissau-Guinean nationality.) The Court disallowed eight candidates, including former Prime Ministers Francisco Fadul and Aristides Gomes. The other disallowed candidates were Joao Tatis Sa, Pedro Infanda, Cirilo Oliveira, Ibraima Laf Djalo, Serifo Balde, and Abdulai Djibril Balde. The Court offered no immediate explanation for its decision. Septel to follow.

BERNICAT